Permit Requirements

All hunters must possess a refuge permit. This brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as a permit for all 2004-2005 hunts **except** the <u>limited hunts</u>. State Management Area stamps *are not* required. Archery, muzzleloader, or turkey stamps *are required* for appropriate hunts. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl.

Limited Hunt Application Procedures:

The two day modern gun hunt for deer of either sex, the 7 day limited hog hunt and the youth modern gun hunt for deer of either sex require a <u>Limited Hunt Permit</u> which is assigned by random computer drawing. If drawn, there is a \$12.50 fee for each permit. <u>Limited Hunt Permits</u> are not transferable and non refundable. Application period is from July 15 through August 31.

Instructions: To apply for a Limited Hunt Permit, on a plain sheet of paper list the following information.

- 1. Complete name, address and date of birth for each applicant (required for both single and group applications).
- 2. Groups of no more than five people may apply on one application.
- 3. Name of hunt applying for: General Gun, Youth Hunt or limited hog hunt
- 4. At least one applicant must sign the application and mail it to Lower Suwannee NWR, 16450 NW 31st Place. Chiefland, FL 32626.
- 5. If an applicant is under 16 years old, the name of an adult sponsor, at least 21 years old, must be included on the application (required for both General Gun and Youth Limited Hunt Permits).
- 6. Duplicate applications for the same hunt, will disqualify the duplicate person and all others listed on a group application for the drawing.
- 7. Only successful applicants will be notified. If selected, you will be notified of procedures to submit the \$12.50 fee and receive the permit.

The following regulations supplement Florida state hunting regulations and the general regulations governing hunting on Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations.

General Hunting Regulations

All motorized land vehicles are restricted to designated roads shown on the map. Vehicles must be parked in a

manner which does not block roads or gates. The use of ATV's (three-wheeler, four-wheeler, etc.) are prohibited.

Camping, fires, littering, and horses are prohibited. Taking of frogs and turtles is prohibited.

Cutting trees, removing wood or other plant matter from the refuge is prohibited.

Possession of a **loaded** firearm while on a refuge road and its right-of-way established for motorized vehicle travel or in any vehicle or boat is prohibited. Loaded is defined as shells in the chamber or magazine or percussion cap on a muzzleloader. Firearms are permitted only during refuge hunting season.

During the Limited deer, hog and youth deer hunts all other public entry or use of the hunting areas is prohibited. During the Limited gun hunts, the Dixie Mainline road will remain open to all vehicles, but firearms are prohibited except for permit holders.

Hunting from refuge roads open to public vehicle travel is prohibited.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven is prohibited. Temporary tree stands must be removed by the end of the General gun hunting season.

Construction of permanent blinds or stands is prohibited.

The placing of or hunting with the aid of bait, salt, oil or injestable attractant is prohibited.

All hunters (including all persons accompanying hunters) must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange visible above the waistline while hunting during all refuge deer gun hunts and the limited hog hunt.

In addition to State hunter education requirements, hunters under the age of 16 must be supervised by an adult 21 year of age or older. Parents or adult guardians over the age of 21 are responsible for supervising hunters under the age of 16 and must remain within sight and normal voice contact of the juvenile hunter. Parents or adults guardians are responsible for ensuring that hunters under the age of 16 do not engage in conduct that would constitute a violation of the refuge regulations. For small game and waterfowl hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths and for big game hunts— no more than one youth.

Except as otherwise specified, dogs must be kept on a leash at all times. Dogs may only be used as an aid to taking raccoon during the raccoon night hunting season and for waterfowl season.

All commercial activities including guiding or participating in a guided hunt are prohibited.

Target practice is prohibited.

The use of organized drives for taking or attempting to take game is prohibited.

Hunters utilizing the refuge are subject to inspection of licenses, permits, hunting equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents, during compliance checks by refuge or state officers.

Possession or use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited while hunting.

Temporary tree stands may be left on the refuge starting on the last weekend of August and must be removed by the last day of the General gun hunting season.

Marking any tree, or other refuge feature with flagging, litter, paint or blaze is prohibited.

Reflective markers are permitted, but the markers must be removed at the end of the refuge deer hunting season.

Hunters must be out of the woods by one hour after legal shooting time.

Specific Hunt Regulations

State bag limits and firearms regulations apply unless otherwise listed. Coyote and beaver may be taken during archery, muzzleloader, general gun, and small game seasons.

Waterfowl

State waterfowl season; ducks and coots only. Decoys and boats must be removed daily. Hunters must use and be in possession of shells containing non-toxic shot only.

Archery

State season, September 25 -October 24; legal to take any deer (except spotted fawns), feral hogs (no size or bag limit), gray squirrel, rabbit, armadillo, opossum, raccoon.

Muzzleloader

October 30-November 7, muzzleloader firearms only; legal to take deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, feral hogs (no bag or size limit).

General Gun

November 13-19, **and November 22-28**, legal to take deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, feral hogs (no size or bag limit).

Small Game

January 31-February 28, 2005; legal to take gray squirrel, armadillo, opossum, rabbit, and raccoon. Only .22 caliber rimfire firearms or smaller (not .22 magnums) with a magazine capable of carrying not

more than 20 rounds or shotguns with shot no larger than #4 common may be possessed.

Raccoon/Opossum

Night hunting. Friday and Saturday nights - sunset until sunrise during the month of **February**. State regulation, weapons, and ammunition requirements apply.

Turkey (Spring Season)

State season shooting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm (March 19 - April 24, 2005); bearded turkeys only. Shotguns with shot no larger than size 2 common (bird) shot and bows only.

Limited Gun Deer Hunt:

(November 20 and 21) 400 permits will be issued. All applicable State and general refuge regulations apply. In addition:

- 1. State bag limit except only one deer per permit may be a buck. Hogs may be taken (no size or bag limit)
- 2. All game must be checked via the self check hunter bag report attached to the refuge hunt brochure. In Levy county a check station is located at the South entrance to the refuge.

Limited Youth, Gun Deer Hunt:

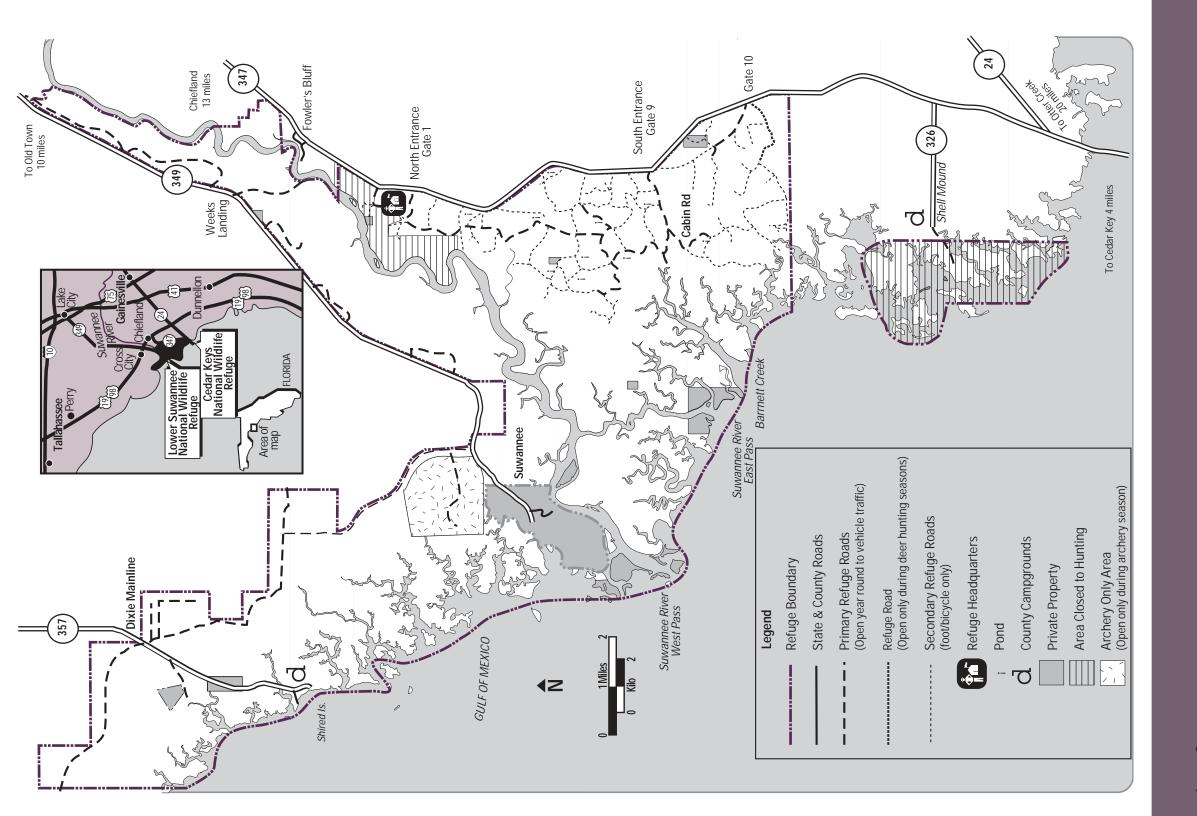
(December 4 and 5) 150 permits will be issued. All applicable State and General refuge regulations apply. This hunt may be canceled in the future if hunter participation does not increase. Additional changes are as follows:

- 1. Each adult can supervise only one youth and the adult cannot hunt. Only youth under 16 years of age can hunt and must carry the firearm.
- 2. Hunting will only be permitted in the Levy County portion of the refuge and all hunters must enter the refuge from CR347.
- 3. State bag limit except only one deer per permit may be a buck. Hogs may be taken (no size or bag limit).
- 4. All game must be checked at the refuge check station located at the South entrance. Antlerless deer must be tagged prior to leaving the refuge.

Limited Quota Hog Hunt

(January 24-30, 2005) 400 permits will be issued. Legal to take hogs (no size or bag limit). Hunter must possess a limited quota hog permit (see application procedures). Tree stands are permitted but must be removed at the close of the hog hunt period.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lower Suwannee

National Wildlife Refuge Hunting Regulations 2004-2005

Please check your game using the attached Hunter Bag Report. It can be mailed to the refuge or deposited at refuge check stations.

Permit

Name (please print)

I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

Signature (Permits are not transferable)

This permit must be completed to be valid. It must be carried by the hunter during the hunts.

It is <u>NOT</u> VALID for the Limited Deer or hog quota hunts (see enclosed explanation)





